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1830/31

ANNUAL REPORT,

AND

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT

OF THE

APPRENTICES'

LIBRARY COMPANY

OF PHILADELPHIA ;

READ AT A MEETING

Held on the 14th of March, 1831.

TOGETHER WITH THE

UNIVERSITY OF LINES
JAN 21 1970

Act of Incorporation of the Company,

AND

LIST OF OFFICERS.

PHILADELPHIA :

PRINTED BY J. YOUNG, BLACK HORSE ALLEY.

1831.

*To the Apprentices' Library Company of Philadelphia.
The Board of Managers in conformity with the charter,
present the following*

REPORT:

That during the past year 1,300 volumes have been placed on the shelves; of these, 1,110 were purchased, and 190 were the gifts of different individuals. The aggregate number of volumes now belonging to the institution is about 6,500, of which 332 were re-bound in the course of the year.

Since the last Annual Report, eighty-seven new members have been added to the company.

The average number of applicants for books is 768, among whom are comprised boys of all ages between seven and twenty-one. Their general deportment attests the prevalence of a spirit superior to that of others, whose indifference to improvement renders them insensible to the advantages of occasional reading. One boy only, during the year, has been excluded from the use of the Library for improper behaviour. A commendable judgment is generally displayed by applicants in the selection of books, and this, joined to the regularity with which successive volumes are returned, shews that they are usefully appropriated, and are conferring permanent benefits.

The Library has been regularly open and attended, except during the latter part of summer and the beginning of autumn, when the distribution of books was suspended for the purpose of their adjustment and classification, and the preparation of a new catalogue. This duty being performed, the operations of the institution were resumed, and have since been continued.

The managers avail themselves of this opportunity to mention the intention they have formed of keeping the Library open during four nights in the week instead of two, which is the present arrangement. As their conviction is strong, that more frequent opportunities of access will prove decidedly beneficial, it is deferred only from the necessity of introducing other concurrent alterations.

Cramped as it is from the want of funds, and contending with other discouragements, the managers may nevertheless congratulate the company upon the benefits which their institution every year is silently conferring. The moral and intellectual blessings of its agency are not restricted to the forsaken and friendless apprentice, but embracing a wide sphere, its treasures are freely offered to young men of vari-

ous conditions and diverse pursuits. The influence, we have reason to believe, it has exerted in forming the characters of many who are destitute of friendly or parental tutelage, by awakening latent energies of the mind and bringing into exercise virtues which would have lain dormant in the heart, while it is a full reward for the labours of the managers, should be a sufficient passport to favour with the public. Even public seminaries, highly valuable as they are in imparting the elementary branches of useful learning, would be comparatively inoperative without aid furnished to a more complete developement of mental and moral accomplishments. In a school the seeds of virtue and knowledge may be sown, but without further cultivation and ulterior care, they may be choked and overrun by the weeds of vice and ignorance. Something must counteract the blighting effects of loose and dissolute company, at a dangerous period of life; and in the absence of a conscientious guardian, what so likely as the friendly teachings of a judicious library? To whose admonition can the young and unprotected adventurer listen, with less distrust of the motive which induced it, than to those excellent works which mankind unite in regarding as the rich legacies of wisdom and virtue?

The Apprentices' Library, in presenting to the young the attraction of its volumes, is far from complying with the cravings of a depraved and immoral taste. Books of an injurious tendency are excluded from its shelves. Argumentative treatises, histories, biographies, travels, personal and historical anecdotes, performances of taste, unexceptionable poetry, and works of science, in all their endless varieties, enter into the composition, because they are comprehended within the design, of the Library. In a word, the volumes have all been selected with one of two views, either to inform the understanding, or to benefit the heart.

Though the Library has been conducted upon these principles, and attended with these results, the managers have to regret that it has not met with greater regard from the public, and especially from those classes of society to which it might reasonably look for assistance. Many of our respectable mechanics are not included in its list of members, and the opulent have not contributed much to its support or enlargement. We take pleasure in exempting from this remark such names as John Grandom, and William M'Kenzie, and his liberal executors, who have conferred a lasting good upon the institution, and erected an enduring monument to their own benevolence, as well as several public-spirited persons who have made donations of excellent books from their private collections. The hope however is entertained, that in proportion

as time shall more fully unfold the usefulness of ,the Library limited in the number of its books, and circumscribed in operation as it is, a more lively interest in its concerns will be awakened, and a noble generosity will be called into action.

By order of the board,

PHILIP GARRETT, *Chairman.*

SAMUEL MASON, JR. *Secretary.*

Philadelphia, 2d Mo. 17, 1831.

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ACT OF INCORPORATION.

WHEREAS a number of persons, resident in the city of Philadelphia and the adjoining districts, believing that many benefits would arise from the establishment of a library or suitable books for the use of apprentices, that it would promote orderly and virtuous habits, diffuse knowledge and the desire for knowledge, improve the scientific skill of our mechanics and manufacturers, increase the benefits of the system of general education which is now adopted, and advance the prosperity and happiness of the community, have associated under the title of "The Apprentices' Library Company of Philadelphia," for the purpose of establishing a library for the use of the apprentices in said city and adjoining districts, and for the better accomplishment of this object, have petitioned the legislature to be made a body politic and corporate:

Therefore,

SECT. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and house of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That all such persons as now are, or hereby may become in the manner herein after prescribed, members of the said apprentices' library company, be and they hereby are constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of "The Apprentices' Library Company of Philadelphia," and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and be able to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded in any court of competent jurisdiction, and shall be able to purchase, receive, have, hold and enjoy to them and their successors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, goods and chattels, rights and credits of what nature or estate soever, and the same or any part or parts thereof to sell, alien, or dispose of, and therefor when sold, aliened, or disposed of, to execute according to law good and sufficient instruments of conveyance or assurance, and generally to make all and any contracts requisite to the good management of the said library, with power also to make

such by-laws and regulations as to them may seem necessary for the like good management of the said library, and the government of the said company, and to make and have a common seal, and the same to renew at pleasure: *Provided*, That the estate had and enjoyed by the said company, do, and shall not yield a clear annual income or profit of more than three thousand dollars: *And also provided*, That the by-laws and regulations which may be made by the said company, be not inconsistent with the constitutions or laws of the United States or of this commonwealth.

SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that the officers of the said company hereby incorporated, shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a treasurer, a secretary, and a board of twenty-four managers, and the said president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary shall be ex-officio members of the said board of managers, and thirteen members of the whole number of said board shall be a quorum thereof, and all the said officers shall be elected annually: *Provided*, That the present officers of the said company, *viz.* Horace Binney, president, Roberts Vaux, vice-president; James Cresson, treasurer, Daniel B. Smith, secretary, and Clement C. Biddle. Frederick V. Krug, Thomas F. Leaming, William S. Warder, Philip Garret, Robert J. Evans, Samuel L. Shober, Samuel B. Morris, Benjamin H. Yarnell, Philip F. Mayer, Robert M. Lewis, Anthony Finley, Richard C. Wood, Abraham Miller, Benjamin Tucker, Thomas Kimber, Henry Troth, Merrit Canby, Jacob Gratz, Lloyd Mifflin, Samuel Sellers, Richard Oakford, Samuel Canby, and William Price, the board of managers, be and continue such officers of the company hereby incorporated, until the stated meeting of said company, as in the third section of this act mentioned.

SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the said company hereby incorporated shall, in each and every year, hold at least one meeting, to be called a stated meeting, and to be held at such time and place as shall be designated in the by-laws aforesaid, and at which the officers aforesaid shall be elected, and that other meetings of the said company shall be called by the president aforesaid, whenever requested by any five members; and that four days notice shall be given, in at least two of the daily papers of the said city, of the time and place of the holding of any and every meeting of the said company, and that fifteen members shall be necessary to form a quorum thereof, and in case of an omission to hold any stated meeting as aforesaid, the officers for the time being shall continue in their respective offices until an election be had, and it shall be the duty of the presi-

dent to convene a meeting of said company, so soon after said omission occurs, as may be practicable, at which an election for the officers aforesaid shall be made.

SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That it shall be the duty of the president of the company hereby incorporated, to preside in all the meetings thereof, and to subscribe all its acts and proceedings; in all questions (except when a ballot is taken) where an equal division of votes occurs to decide by a casting vote; to call meetings as herein before prescribed, and to cause the due notices thereof to be given; and in case of the absence of the president from any meeting, it shall be the duty of the vice-president to preside therein; and in case the president vacate his office, or be absent, or unable to serve for any time, the vice-president shall perform the duties thereof; and in case the president and vice-president be both absent from any meeting, a president *pro tempore* shall be appointed to preside therein.

SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That it shall be the duty of the treasurer of the company hereby incorporated, to collect, receive, and keep in trust, all the monies owing, paid, or belonging thereto, and to pay all the orders thereof, or of the said board of managers; he shall annually, or oftener if required, lay before the said company, and before the said board of managers, a correct statement of the funds of the said company; and before entering upon the execution of his office, shall enter into a bond to the said company, in such sum and with such security or securities as shall be approved of by the said board, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of his said office.

SECT. 6. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That it shall be the duty of the secretary of the company hereby incorporated, to keep fair and correct minutes and records of the proceedings and acts thereof, to preserve all the papers and documents thereto belonging which may be committed to his charge, and to give the aforesaid public notices of the meetings of the said company.

SECT. 7. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That it shall be the duty of the said board of managers to purchase and receive such books as they may think proper for the said library, to appoint a librarian, to provide all things necessary to carry into effect the object of the company hereby incorporated, and of this act, and to pay all the expenditures incurred in and about the premises: *Provided,* That no book of an immoral or otherwise injurious tendency be purchased or received by the said board, or in any manner admitted into the said library. And it shall be the duty of the said board to meet at least once in every month to supply

any vacancy therein, to enact rules and regulations for the government thereof, and of the said library, to keep regular minutes of their proceedings, and the same to exhibit when required to the said company, to make an annual report to the said company of the state of the said library and of the use made thereof, and generally to superintend its concerns: *Provided*, That the said rules and regulations be not inconsistent with the constitutions or laws of the United States, or of this commonwealth, or with any part of this act.

SECT. 8. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the books composing the said library shall be loaned to such apprentices, and at the discretion of the managers to such other young persons as shall furnish satisfactory security for the safe and punctual return of the same, and for the payment of such fines as may be incurred for default, and for whatever loss or injury may be sustained in the books so loaned.

SECT. 9. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That from and after the passing of this act, new members shall be elected or admitted into the said company by the said board of managers, in such manner as may be provided for in the by-laws of the said company hereby incorporated. Every member of said company shall pay an annual contribution of two dollars, except such as shall at any one time pay the sum of twenty-five dollars, who shall by reason of said sum paid, be considered members for life, and be exempt from the said annual contribution. And if any member, liable to pay the said annual contribution, fail to pay the same for two years, he shall, upon its appearing that the same was demanded of him, forfeit his right of membership.

JOHN GILMORE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PHILIP S. MARKLEY,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—April the second, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one.

JOSEPH HEISTER.

Dr. APPRENTICES' LIBRARY COMPANY of Philadelphia, in Account with SAMUEL SELLERS, Treasurer, Cr.
From March 8, 1830, to March 12, 1831.

To Cash paid Rent of Room,	Per order, \$125	By Balance,	\$33
Printing Notices,	2	Cash of T. Phipps, on account of Residuary Legacy of	
" Book Committee,	500	J. Grandom, deceased,	10
" James M. Bird, salary, ..	100	Annual contribution of Members, \$517 50	
" Joseph M. Hopper, ditto, ..	100	Deduct commissions collecting, 39 22	478 28
" James Kay, jan, printing, ..	7	of Librarian, catalogues and fines,	158
" John Young, printing Address,	28	Life Subscription, Wm. S. Warden,	25
" S. Tiller, printing Labels, ..	10	One year's Ground Rent, to Jan. 1, 1831,	75
" Serving Notices and Address, ..	12 26	" One year's Interest on Ches. and Del. Canal Loan,	
" Reinsurance on Books, for \$1500, ..	6	Jan. 1831,	108
" For assistance in making new Catalogue,	30	Dividend, Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank,	
" Wm. Young, printing Catalogue, ..	94 50	Ditto, Bank of North America,	3 25
" Binding Books,	30 93	Ditto,	20
" Collateral Inheritance Tax on Ground {	31 25	of E. Garrigues, in full of legacy of J. Grandom,	
Rent,	25	Per Executors' Account,	10
Printing Cards,	10	Loan of S. Sellers, Jan. 20, 1831,	200
Coal,	6 50	" of Room Committee, rent from Samaritan and	26
Oil, &c.,	16 72	Wallace Societies, &c.,	
Blank Books,	8 12	Balance,	3 04
" Room Committee, sundries for room, ..	37 15		
			\$1155 43
			\$1155 43
		FUNDED STOCK.	
		Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Loan,	\$1800 00
		Ground Rent, par value,	1250 00
		1 Share Stock Bank of North America,	400 00
		1 do. Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank,	50 00
			\$3500 00

The undersigned, having been appointed by the Board of Managers of the Apprentices' Library Company, a Committee to examine and settle the Treasurer's Account, have attended to that duty, compared the account with the vouchers, and find the same correct, leaving a balance in his favour of three dollars and four cents.

S. FRALEY,
 THOMAS RIDGWAY.
 Committee.

SAMUEL SELLERS, Treasurer.
 Philadelphia, March 12, 1831.